Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

In a preferred embodiment, the nut 10 can be formed as a combination of two members 27 and 30. The first member 27 is illustrated in the top plan view of Figure 2 and the bottom plan view of Figure **[[4]]3**. The second member 30 is illustrated in the top plan view of Figure **[[3]]4** and the bottom plan view of Figure 5.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

With the first member 27 and second member 30 thus configured, they are specifically adapted to be aligned and coupled in a snap- fit relationship. As illustrated in Figures 6 and 7, these two members 27 and 30 can be axially moved together as illustrated by arrows 90 and 92 in ~~Figure 6~~ Figures 6 and 7. During this assembly, the snap hooks 76 deflect slightly radially inwardly along the deflection walls 38-45 until the hooks 76 clear the top surface 50 of the base 47. At this point, the hooks 76 snap over the top surface 50 thereby maintaining the first member 27 and the second member 30 in a rotatable but axially engaged relationship. It is intended that these two members 27 and 30 not be separated from their snap-fit relationship, as illustrated in Figure 7, but remain joined throughout the use of the nut 10.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Torque is initially applied by the user to the outer wall 32 of the first member 27 (Figure 2). In response to that torque, the deflection wall 45 moves in the direction of the arrow 103 in Figure 9. At low magnitudes ~~or~~ of torque, the leading edge 52 of the deflection wall 45 merely pushes the deflecting element 83 ahead of it to rotate the cylindrical wall 74 and associated threads 78 of the second member 30.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

A further embodiment of the nut 10 is illustrated in Figures ~~12-14~~14-16 wherein elements of structure similar to those previously discussed are illustrated with the same reference numeral followed by the lower case letter "a." Thus, in Figure ~~12~~14, the nut 10a is illustrated with an outer wall 32a that can be turned or torqued, for example, by engaging the ears 34a and 36a.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

Operation of this single piece nut 10a is illustrated in Figure ~~14~~16, which also shows the tubular shaft 12a and associated outer threads 14a. In this view, the nut 10a has been tightened to the predetermined torque level, causing the inner threads 78a to move axially along the outer threads 14a. This movement

causes the deflection walls 38a-45a to bend outwardly until the inner threads 78a clear the outer threads 14a. At this point, the nut 10a moves axially one thread width thereby reducing the tightening torque of the nut. It can be seen that continued attempts to tighten the nut 10a will each terminate at the predetermined torque where the nut 10a jumps axially backwardly relative to the shaft 12a as illustrated by arrows 143.